

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 407 672

CS 215 803

TITLE English 30. Part A: Written Response. Grade 12 Diploma Examination.

INSTITUTION Alberta Dept. of Education, Edmonton. Student Evaluation Branch.

PUB DATE Jan 97

NOTE 38p.; For other English 30 test booklets, see CS 215 804-805.

PUB TYPE Tests/Questionnaires (160)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Achievement Tests; English Instruction; Foreign Countries; \*Grade 12; High Schools; Poetry; \*Reader Response; \*Reading Skills; Test Items; \*Writing Evaluation; \*Writing Skills

IDENTIFIERS \*Alberta Grade Twelve Diploma Examinations; \*Response to Literature

ABSTRACT

This booklet presents the Written Response part of the English 30 Grade 12 Diploma examination. After instructions for students, the booklet presents the first part of the examination in which students respond to Patricia Keeney's poem "Swimming Alone," which addresses the complexities of risk-taking. The booklet then presents the second part of the examination in which students examine the consequence of the individual response to risk-taking based on the literature they have studied. The booklet provides students with suggested times for completing the examination and space for planning and drafting their responses. (RS)

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*January 1997*



# *English 30*

## *Part A: Written Response*

### *Grade 12 Diploma Examination*

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**January 1997**  
**English 30 Part A: Written Response**  
**Grade 12 Diploma Examination**

*Description*

**Part A: Written Response** contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments:

- **Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**

*Suggested time*  
approximately 1/2 hour

*Value*  
30% of the Part A mark

... Page 2

- **Literature Composition Assignment**

*Suggested time*  
approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours

*Value*  
70% of the Part A mark

... Page 10

***Time: 2 1/2 hours. You may take an additional 1/2 hour to complete the examination.***

*Instructions*

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- Follow instructions carefully.
- Complete **both** assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and drafting and for your finished work. Please write your finished work in blue or black ink. Feel free to make changes and corrections.
- You may use the following references:
  - a print or electronic dictionary (English language and/or translation)
  - a thesaurus
  - an authorized writing handbook
- Budget your time carefully; the suggested time for each part is only a guideline for you.
- Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

## Reading Selection

1. Because the Readers' Response to Literature Assignment will prepare you for the Literature Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.
2. Read "Swimming Alone" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

### SWIMMING ALONE

They warn you not to  
dangerous they say  
what if you get in trouble  
what if  
in the early morning when pellets of rain  
rip the mist like whispered rumour, loud  
in the dark fir circling  
what if  
the majesty of one  
deliberately fracturing glass  
moving down through pools to make  
a footprint on mud that's swallowed whole  
slipping behind the raft and out of sight  
breathing under the whirled pearl smoke  
brooding and dreaming, what if

one becomes enough  
or meets another single creature  
ploughing through this lake  
also swimming alone  
for the first time since childhood  
in cunning furtive spasms  
until the strokes are long and steady  
what if we two angry isolates  
touching souls together  
ignoring all the prohibitions, expectations  
swimming especially in lightning

*Continued*

white nudes between each sizzling shaft  
and always at night, when the sky falls down  
and we push through fuming stars  
barely missing the moon's pale hiss  
what if we two, wrinkled and cold and buoyant  
never come out of the lake

swimming alone is for the brave and desperate

*Patricia Keeney*  
Canadian poet

**Reader's Response to Literature Assignment**  
(Suggested time: approximately 1/2 hour)

The poem "Swimming Alone" by Patricia Keeney suggests the complex elements involved in risk-taking.

**What does the poem "Swimming Alone" convey to you about the factors involved in risk-taking? Support your response with reference to specific details from the poem.**

PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.

## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on pages 6 and 8.



## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### PLANNING

There is additional space for Planning on page 8.



## Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

### PLANNING



## Literature Composition Assignment

(Suggested time: approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours)

Literature often portrays the individual confronting the unknown—either stepping back from the brink of risk, hesitating, or plunging in.

Write an essay based on literature that you have studied in which the author examines the consequence of the individual response to risk-taking. **What idea does the author develop regarding risk-taking?** Develop your essay by providing specific supporting details from the literature that you choose to discuss.

### Guidelines for Writing

- **Choose** your selection from relevant short stories, novels, plays, poems, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must discuss literature **other than** the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea regarding risk-taking. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are responding to the requirements of this assignment as you develop and support your controlling idea.
- **Organize** your composition so that your ideas are clearly and coherently developed.

# Literature Composition Assignment

## INITIAL PLANNING

Space is provided here for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title  
of literature that  
you have chosen

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Your controlling idea  
or thesis statement

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There is additional space for Planning on even-numbered pages.

## Literature Composition Assignment

### PLANNING



# Literature Composition Assignment

## PLANNING



## Literature Composition Assignment

### PLANNING



# Literature Composition Assignment

## PLANNING



**Literature Composition Assignment**

**PLANNING**



## Literature Composition Assignment

### PLANNING

25

22



## Literature Composition Assignment

### PLANNING



## Literature Composition Assignment

### PLANNING



# Literature Composition Assignment

## PLANNING



## Literature Composition Assignment

### PLANNING



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